## saving ohio's POLLINATORS

## Ohio Department of Transportation – District 9 Bee Pollinator Habitat Planting Guidelines

## Site Preparation & Schedule

- Choose sites away from trees and bushes.
- Perform soil analysis to check for pH (5.5 to 6.5 for plant growth) and determine percentage of organic material and soil texture.
- Use glyphosate to kill weeds; apply from early spring to fall one full season before planting.
- Plant native Ohio genotype seed (quality seed of local origin) selected for soil type and location in late fall, after November 15<sup>th</sup> or the 1<sup>st</sup> frost.
- Provide for successive, overlapped blooming of at least three species from May through November.
- Plant about 12 pounds of pure live seed (pls) per acre for no-till and 18 pounds of pure live seed (pls) per acre for broadcast.
- Do <u>not</u> till soil; do <u>not</u> fertilize.
- Plant using either no-till drill or broadcast seed and then use shallow, light raking and a roller to push into ground. Seed must not be deeper than ¼ inch.
- Dry Mesic Mix: Native Ohio genotype seed will include perennial forbs, grasses and legumes. Ohio native grasses to be Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), little bluestem grass (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), Canada wild rye (*Elymus candensis*; native cover crop and cool season grass), and possibly sideoats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*).
- Wet Mesic Mix: Grasses may possibly include cordgrass (no more than one pound per acre) and switchgrass (very small amount; no more than ¼ pound per acre).
- During the first year, allow plantings to grow to 12" and then mow to 6 inches (no lower) in first **growing** season to suppress weed growth. When plants stop growing, stop mowing.
- Do not mow when soil is wet from rain.
- During the second year, allow plantings to grow to 24" and then mow to 12 inches.
- Do not pull weeds, unless desired seed is placed on these areas immediately and stepped into ground.
- Spot kill weeds with glyphosate as necessary; spray only when wind is between 3 and 10 mph.
- Once established, mow once in November or mow to ground in early April.
- Rather than mow, may burn in April once every three years beginning the 4<sup>th</sup> growing season.



**Developed for ODOT** – **District 9** to establish native prairie grasses and wildflowers in southern Ohio.

Seed Mix & Bloom Time (in blue)		Note: If all seed are the same size, the percent by seed is forbs 62.45% and grass or grass-like 37.55%											
Species Name	Common Name	Percent by seed weight	Height	March	April	May	June	уlul	August	Sept	Oct	Νον	Dec
Schizachyrium scoparium	Little Bluestem	25.00%	18 in 3 ft.	_									
Elymus Canadensis	Nodding Wild Rye	25.00%	3 - 6 ft.										
Sorghastrum nutans	Indian Grass	12.50%	3 - 8 ft.										
Echinacea purpurea	Purple Coneflower	4.69%	2 - 5 ft.										
baptisia alba (macrophylla)	White Wild Indigo	4.69%	2 - 4 ft.										
Ratibida pinnata	Yellow Coneflower/Grey-Headed C	4.69%	3 - 5 ft.										
Coreopsis lanceolata	Lanceleaf Coreopsis	3.13%	1-2.5 ft.										
Asclepias tuberosa	Butterfly Weed	2.81%	18 in 2 ft.										
Liatris spicata	Dense Blazingstar	2.81%	3 - 4 ft.										
Lespedeza capitata	Roundheaded Bushclover	2.50%	2 - 4 ft.										
Aster novae-angliae	New England Aster	1.56%	3 ft.										
Coreopsis tripteris	Tall Coreopsis	1.56%	3 - 9 ft.										
Rudbeckia speciosa sullivantii	Showy Black-eyed Susan	1.56%	3 ft.										
Silphium terebinthinaceum	Prairie Dock	1.56%	3 - 8 ft.										
Solidago rigida	Stiff Goldenrod	1.56%	1 -5 ft.										
Monarda fistulosa	Wild Bergamot	1.56%	2 -5 ft.										
Aster laevis	Smooth Aster	1.56%	2 -4 ft.										
Rudbeckia hirta	Black-eyed Susan	1.56%	2 - 3 ft.										
Asclepias incarnata	Rose Milkweed	*Add if desired	4 ft.										

\* Rose Milkweed is good for Monarch Butterflies; it is not good for poultry and livestock, so care should be given for determining planting locations!

## **Additional Seed Information**

For more information, call 740-774-9050.

Genotype refers to seed that is of a particular species and has been developed under local environmental conditions. To obtain Ohio genotype and/or Ohio acclimated seed, contact a local nursery; information is also available online at <u>www.governorsresidence.ohio.gov</u>. And remember to consider the storage requirements, such as container, location and temperature, for any unused seed.